

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICKEY BEARMAN COMPANY

Plaintiff.

V.

WEST AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY, et al.

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-03789-WLH
(AGR_x)

DISCOVERY MATTER

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Magistrate Judge: Alicia G. Rosenberg

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local

1 Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be
2 applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

3 **A. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

4 This action is likely to involve commercial, financial, and/or proprietary
5 information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for
6 any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential
7 and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other things,
8 confidential business or financial information, information regarding confidential
9 business practices, or other confidential research, development, or commercial
10 information (including information implicating privacy rights of third parties),
11 information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be
12 privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
13 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
14 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
15 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to
16 keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses
17 of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their
18 handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order
19 for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that
20 information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that
21 nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a
22 confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part
23 of the public record of this case.

24 **2. DEFINITIONS**

25 2.1 Action: Mickey Bearman Company v. West American Insurance
26 Company, et al. Case No. 2:24-cv-03789-WLH (AGRx).

1 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
2 of information or items under this Order.

3 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
4 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
5 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
6 the Good Cause Statement.

7 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
8 their support staff).

9 2.5 Designated House Counsel: House Counsel who seek access to
10 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” information in this
11 matter.

12 2.6 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
13 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
14 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES
15 ONLY.”

16 2.7 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of
17 the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
18 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
19 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

20 2.8 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
21 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
22 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

23 2.9 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
24 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
25 counsel.

26 2.10 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
27 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

2.11 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

2.12 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

2.13 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in this Action.

2.14 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

2.15 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

2.16 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

4. DURATION

1 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
2 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
3 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
4 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with
5 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
6 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
7 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
8 pursuant to applicable law.

9 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

10 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
11 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
12 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
13 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for
14 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
15 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,
16 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
17 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

18 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
19 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
20 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
21 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
22 Party to sanctions.

23 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
24 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
25 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

26 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
27 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise

1 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
2 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
3 produced.

4 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

5 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
6 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
7 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
8 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES
9 ONLY” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”) to each page that contains
10 protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies
11 for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
12 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

13 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
14 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
15 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
16 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
17 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’
18 EYES ONLY.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants
19 copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or
20 portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the
21 specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL legend”
22 to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the
23 material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
24 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
25 margins).

(b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all protected testimony.

(c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY." If only a portion or portions of the information warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall

1 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
2 entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the
3 challenge.

4 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

5 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
6 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
7 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
8 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
9 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
10 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
11 DISPOSITION).

12 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
13 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
14 authorized under this Order.

15 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless
16 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
17 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
18 "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

19 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well
20 as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary
21 to disclose the information for this Action;

22 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
23 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

24 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
25 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
26 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

27 (d) the court and its personnel;

1 (e) court reporters and their staff;

2 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
3 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
4 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

5 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
6 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

7 (h) during their depositions, witnesses ,and attorneys for witnesses, in the
8 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
9 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they will
10 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
11 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
12 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
13 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
14 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
15 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

16 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
17 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

18 7.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS’ EYES
19 ONLY” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted
20 in writing by the Designating Party, any information or item designated “HIGHLY
21 CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” may be disclosed only to:

22 (a) The Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well
23 as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary
24 to disclose the information for this Action;

25 (b) Designated House Counsel of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is
26 reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgement
27 and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A).

1 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
2 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
3 “Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);
4 (d) The court and its personnel;
5 (e) Court reporters and their staff
6 (f) Professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
7 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
8 signed the “Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);
9 (g) The author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
10 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;
11 (h) Any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
12 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in the settlement discussions.
13 (i) Any other person as to whom the source producing the HIGHLY
14 CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY Information or Items agrees in
15 writing in advance, or as ordered of the court.

16 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**

17 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

18 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
19 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
20 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS' EYES
21 ONLY,” that Party must:

22 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
23 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;
24 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
25 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
26 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include
27 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

**9. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

(a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” and “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

(b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

(1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
PROTECTED MATERIAL**

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil

1 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure
2 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without
3 prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar
4 as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or
5 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the
6 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted
7 to the court.

8 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

9 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
10 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

11 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
12 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
13 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
14 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
15 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

16 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
17 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
18 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
19 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
20 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
21 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

22 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

23 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
24 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
25 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
26 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,
27 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the

Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD:

Dated: July 18, 2024 JASZCZUK, P.C.

By: /s/ *Maria G. Enriquez*

Maria G. Enriquez (Admitted *Pro Hac Vice*)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MICKEY BEARMAN COMPANY

1 Dated: July 18, 2024

2 By:/s/ *Norman Lau* _____

3 Norman Lau

4 Attorneys for Defendant

5 WEST AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY

6 Dated: July 18, 2024

7 By:/s/ *John Atallah* _____

8 John Atallah

9 Attorneys for Defendant

10 HUB INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

11 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED:

12 Dated: August 20, 2024

13 

14 _____
15 Alicia G. Rosenberg

16 United States District Court
17 Magistrate Judge

1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3

4 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
5 _____ [print or type full address],
6 declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the
7 Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for
8 the Central District of California on [date] in the case of Mickey Bearman Company
9 v. West American Insurance Company, et al. Cases No. 2:24-cv-03789-WLH
10 (AGRx). I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated
11 Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could
12 expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly
13 promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject
14 to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict
15 compliance with the provisions of this Order.

16

17 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
18 Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this
19 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
20 termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____
21 [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as
22 my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any
23 proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

24
25
26 Date: _____
27

1 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

2 Printed name: _____

3 Signature: _____